

Washington State Public Lands Inventory

Recreation and Conservation Office

Public Information Data Release

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) was asked by the state Legislature to provide an inventory of lands in Washington owned by federal, state, and local governments, and by Native American tribes by July 1, 2014 (2013-15 Capital Budget proviso, Section 3174 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5035).

The Public Lands Inventory focuses on natural resource and recreation lands and shows ownership (federal, by agency; state, by agency; local government, by county or city), ownership type (fee simple or assumed fee simple; aquatic, upland, or assumed upland), location, acreage, principal use (developed recreation, habitat and passive recreation, revenue generation, conservation, assumed habitat and passive recreation, other, or unknown), and the date and cost of recent acquisitions (within the past ten years).

Data for the Public Lands Inventory was collected, transformed, and compiled for RCO by the University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, which produced the 2012 Statewide Parcel Database (<http://depts.washington.edu/wagis/projects/parcels/index.php>). To augment the 2012 database, the University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences collected updated data directly from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, and State Parks and Recreation Commission. The University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences designed and populated the Public Lands Inventory Database based on RCO and proviso requirements.

Please refer to the Public Lands Inventory Final Report for more information about interpreting this data

(<http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/plip/2014WashingtonPublicLandsInventory.pdf>).

Also, please refer to the interactive web map application showing the Public Lands Inventory (<http://publiclands.smartmine.com/#Map>).

The data for the Public Lands Inventory is provided as public information in three formats:

1. WA_PublicLandsInventory_2014_r1.3_UWSEFS_PublicInfo.gdb – A file geodatabase with the fully normalized source data with multiple tables as a data download of a file geodatabase (a redacted subset of the University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences Public Lands

Inventory Database). Release r1.3 has some small fixes and improvements over the r1.1 data.

2. WA_PublicLandsInventory_2014_r1.1_WARCO_PublicInfo.gdb - A file geodatabase with the summary dataset, compiled by RCO, in a single spatial table (used as the basis of the web map application). This is also available as a shapefile WA_PublicLandsInventory_2014_r1.1_WARCO_PublicInfo_Shapefile but has truncated field names.
3. WA_PublicLandsInventory_2014_r1.1_WARCO_PublicInfo.csv – A summary dataset, compiled by RCO, in a single non-spatial comma separated (CSV) table (same data as the spatial table without the polygon shapes).

The summary form has some duplicate polygons to represent multiple owners or land uses. All public information data has been redacted to exclude data not included in the Public Lands Inventory, and to exclude the location of easements across private lands. There are some differences between the report and web map application acres and the public information data acres due to these redactions and reformatting the data into a summary format.

Data not included in the Public Lands Inventory:

- Tribal Lands.
- Lands Not Used for Natural Resources or Recreation.
- Intended Use at the Time of Acquisition.
- WDFW Geographic Envelopes.
- Ecoregional Assessments and Conservation Opportunity Framework.
- Federal Rail Right-of-Ways.

Conservation and other easements held by public agencies over private lands are also not shown to protect the private landowners from public access and possible trespass issues. This data is not included in the public information data release, but is included in the web map application acreage summaries. There will be minor differences between acreage summaries derived from the public information data and the web map application.

DISCLAIMER: The public information data is a summary of original data from over fifty public agencies collected over several years. Not many of the federal, state, or local government data sets were able to fully meet the proviso data content requirements. Several issues were identified with the original agency data, overlapping claims between agencies, and the transformation of source data into the Public Lands Inventory Database. The University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences worked with the agencies to correct and improve the issues identified with their data and resolve errors in the transformation process. Differences in scale, purpose, standards, and time all but guarantee that data mismatch issues will continue to be a challenge in the future. The University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences and RCO cannot warrant the usage of this data for any purpose

other than the original proviso requirements, and also acknowledge that this data did not fully meet the proviso requirements.